THE DICKENSIAN

A Magazine for Dickens Lovers
and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

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WHEN FOUND—

LAST month was a very notable Dickens one. There seemed to be a more universal desire than usual to do honour to his name on the anniversary of his birth, and there is little doubt that 7 February will be as important a day in the calendar of the Englishman as 25 January is in that of the Scotsman. Throughout this country, in America, and in the colonies the day was celebrated by the various branches of the Fellowship and by other societies formed to perpetuate the name of Dickens. The chief meeting of the Fellowship took place at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, where a crowded audience assembled to hear Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., the President, give his annual presidential address, whilst similar functions were taking place in all the towns where branches exist. In addition to the Dickens Fellowship, such societies as the Boz Club in London, the All-Around Dickens Club in America, and the newly formed Dickens Society of Glasgow all held gatherings of some sort or another with the same avowed object. The Boz Club's meeting took the form of a public dinner, presided over by Mr. John Hare, who made a very telling speech, full of sympathetic appreciation; and at the Glasgow meeting Mr. William Wallace, LL.D., delivered a brilliant eulogium on the novelist's life and work.

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Apart from all this enthusiasm shown at public gatherings, many tributes appeared in the daily Press, whilst Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., marked the day by placing before the public the scheme of the Dickens Fellowship to establish a National Dickens Library at the Guildhall, which is referred to on another page. Several newspapers devoted a leader to Dickens, and some of the other articles on the subject were signed with the names of well-known literary men. In the *Daily Telegraph* Mr. W. L. Courtney, under the heading of "The Triumph of Dickens," indicated clearly how far in advance of all others was the popularity of the novelist. In the course of his article he gave figures which showed that Dickens's original publishers alone last year recorded the sale of something like four hundred thousand of Dickens's books. In another notable article Mr. J. Cuming Walters dealt with Dickens from the point of a campaigner with a moral creed and propaganda for social reform, whilst another writer pleaded for a wider celebration of 7 February as a day of national significance. Altogether the indication is that Dickens's influence and the just appreciation of his writings are spreading more and more each year, inclining also to the belief that his centenary, which looms large in the immediate distance, will be one of the most universal and important in the history of English literature.

Mr. William Miles, the well-known elocutionist, created in January last what probably is a record by giving his twenty-fifth consecutive annual recital at the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford. Mr. Miles recited on the occasion his condensed version of *Dombey and Son*, and to mark the unique event the Council of the Institute presented him with a life member's certificate and a gold medal. We heartily congratulate Mr. Miles, and wish him long life and continued success. A few weeks before Mr. Miles gave a recital of *A Christmas Carol* at the Anglo-American Y.M.C.A. in Paris to a crowded audience, and met with a great reception. He spoke of the work of the Dickens Fellowship, and there is hope that a branch may be formed in the great French city. We publish Mr. Miles's portrait on another page.

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The Manchester Branch propose to arrange an Easter tour to Dickensland if a sufficient number of friends express a desire to form a party for this purpose. The tour would probably include London and Rochester, and would extend from Thursday night, 28 March, to Monday night, 1 April. The estimated cost from Manchester of travel ticket and hotel accommodation would be about £3. 10s. Members from other branches are invited to join. Full particulars can be obtained from Mr. Arthur Humphreys, "Olinda," Longsight, Manchester.

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There has recently been a most interesting correspondence in the *Suffolk and Essex Free Press*, inspired by the query as to what town Dickens had in mind when he described Eatanswill. This is not a new question by any means, but we do not remember the claims of the historical little borough of Sudbury having been urged until now, Ipswich having been accepted as a rule in a vague sort of way. Mr. C. Findon Waters, a member of the Fellowship, has now taken the matter up, and has made out an excellent case for the birthplace of Gainsborough. It is evident that old residents of Sudbury have always accepted the town as the original of Eatanswill without any doubts at all, and it is worth noting that in 1834 Dickens was reporting in Suffolk and Norfolk just at the time that there was a Parliamentary by-election in Sudbury, the exciting nature of which is shown by the fact that it was decided by the Mayor's casting vote. That Dickens was well acquainted with the place is further shown by a reference to it in *Sketches by Boz*, and by the fact that close at hand is the scene of the lawsuit Jennens *v.* Jennens, the original of Jarndyce *v.* Jarndyce.

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We have received a most interesting and valuable catalogue of rarities connected with Dickens, Thackeray, Lever, Morris, Tennyson, and others from Mr. Frank Hollings, 7 Great Turnstile, E.C., which contains many items particularly attractive to Dickens collectors. These include autographs, first editions of his books, volumes of Dickensiana, and works illustrated by Cruikshank, Phiz, and others. Amongst these is a unique copy of *Sketches by Boz*, the three volumes bound in two, interleaved with MS. annotations giving the variations of text from the articles when they appeared in *Bell's Life in London*, and a monograph in MS. on the book by R. H. Shepherd. The price asked for it is by no means exorbitant.

THE EDITOR.

PET PRISONERS*

By CHARLES DICKENS

CHAPTER II

WE now come to enquire into the condition of mind produced by the seclusion (limited in duration as Lord Grey limits it) which is purchased at this great cost in money, and this greater cost in stupendous injustice. That it is a consummation much to be desired, that a respectable man, lapsing into crime, should expiate his offence without incurring the liability of being afterwards recognised by hardened offenders who were his fellow-prisoners, we most readily admit. But, that this object, howsoever desirable and benevolent, is in itself sufficient to outweigh such objections as we have set forth, we cannot for a moment concede. Nor have we any sufficient guarantee that even this solitary point is gained. Under how many apparently inseparable difficulties, men immured in solitary cells, will by some means obtain a knowledge of other men immured in other solitary cells, most of us know from all the accounts and anecdotes we have read of secret prisons and secret prisoners from our school-time upwards. That there is a fascination in the desire to know something of the hidden presence beyond the blank wall of the cell; that the listening ear is often laid against that wall; that there is an overpowering temptation to respond to the muffled knock, or any other signal which sharpened ingenuity pondering day after day on one idea can devise: is in that constitution of human nature which impels mankind to communication with one another, and makes solitude a false condition against which nature strives. That such communication within the Model Prison, is not only probable, but indisputably proved to be possible by its actual discovery, we have no hesitation in stating as a fact. Some pains have been taken to hush the matter, but the truth is, that when the Prisoners at Pentonville ceased to be selected Prisoners, especially picked out and chosen for the purposes of that experiment, an extensive conspiracy was found out among them, involving, it is needless to say, extensive communication. Small pieces of paper with writing upon them, had been crushed into balls, and shot into the apertures of cell doors, by prisoners passing along the passages; false responses had been made during Divine Service in the chapel, in which responses they addressed one another; and armed men were secretly dispersed by the Governor in various parts of the building, to prevent the general rising, which was anticipated as the consequence of this plot. Undiscovered communication, under this system, we assume to be frequent.

The state of mind into which a man is brought who is the lonely inhabitant of his own small world, and who is only visited by certain regular visitors, all addressing themselves to him individually and personally, as the object of their particular solicitude—we believe in most cases to have very little promise in it, and very little of solid foundation. A strange absorbing selfishness—a spiritual egotism and vanity, real or assumed—is the first result. It is most remarkable to observe, in the cases of murderers who become this kind of object of

* Identified and reprinted for the first time from *Household Words*, 27 April, 1850.

interest, when they are at last consigned to the condemned cell, how the rule is (of course there are exceptions), that the murdered person disappears from the stage of their thoughts, except as a part of their own important story; and how they occupy the whole scene. *I* did this, *I* feel that, *I* confide in the mercy of Heaven being extended to *me;* this is the autograph of *me*, the unfortunate and unhappy; in my childhood I was so and so; in my youth I did such a thing, to which I attribute my downfall—not this thing of basely and barbarously defacing the image of my Creator, and sending an immortal soul into eternity without a moment's warning, but something else of a venial kind that many unpunished people do. I don't want the forgiveness of this foully murdered person's bereaved wife, husband, brother, sister, child, friend; I don't ask for it, I don't care for it. I make no enquiry of the clergyman concerning the salvation of that murdered person's soul; *mine* is the matter; and I am almost happy that I came here, as to the gate of Paradise. "I never liked him," said the repentant Mr. Manning, false of heart to the last, calling a crowbar by a milder name, to lessen the cowardly horror of it, "and I beat in his skull with the ripping chisel." I am going to bliss, exclaims the same authority, in effect. Where my victim went to, is not my business at all. Now, God forbid that we, unworthily believing in the Redeemer, should shut out hope, or even humble trustfulness, from any criminal at that dread pass; but, it is not in us to call this state of mind repentance.

The present question is with a state of mind analogous to this (as we conceive) but with a far stronger tendency to hypocrisy; the dread of death not being present, and there being every possible inducement, either to feign contrition, or to set up an unreliable semblance of it. If I, John Styles, the prisoner, don't do my work, and outwardly conform to the rules of the prison, I am a mere fool. There is nothing here to tempt me to do anything else, and everything to tempt me to do that. The capital dietary (and every meal is a great event in this lonely life) depends upon it; the alternative is a pound of bread a day. I should be weary of myself without occupation. I should be much more dull if I didn't hold these dialogues with the gentlemen who are so anxious about me. I shouldn't be half the object of interest I am, if I didn't make the professions I do. Therefore, I John Styles, go in for what is popular here, and I may mean it, or I may not.

There will always, under any decent system, be certain prisoners, betrayed into crime by a variety of circumstances, who will do well in exile, and offend against the laws no more. Upon this class, we think the Associated Silent System would have quite as good an influence as this expensive and anomalous one; and we cannot accept them as evidence of the efficiency of separate confinement. Assuming John Styles to mean what he professes, for the time being, we desire to track the workings of his mind, and to try to test the value of his professions. Where shall we find an account of John Styles, proceeding from no objector to this system, but from a staunch supporter of it? We will take it from a work called *Prison Discipline, and the Advantages of the Separate System of Imprisonment*, written by the Rev. Mr. Field, chaplain of the new County Gaol at Reading; pointing out to Mr. Field, in passing, that the question is not justly, as he would

sometimes make it, a question between this system and the profligate abuses and customs of the old unreformed gaols, but between it and the improved gaols of this time, which are not constructed on his favourite principles.*

Now, here is John Styles, twenty years of age, in prison for a felony. He has been there five months, and he writes to his sister, "Don't fret, my dear sister, about my being here. I cannot help fretting when I think about my usage to my father and mother: when I think about it, it makes me quite ill. I hope God will forgive me; I pray for it night and day from my heart. Instead of fretting about imprisonment, I ought to thank God for it, for before I came here, I was living quite a careless life; neither was God in all my thoughts; all I thought about was ways that led me towards destruction. Give my respects to my wretched companions, and I hope they will alter their wicked course, for they don't know for a day nor an hour but what they may be

* As Mr. Field condescends to quote some vapouring about the account given by Mr. Charles Dickens in his "American Notes," of the Solitary Prison at Philadelphia, he may perhaps really wish for some few words of information on the subject. For this purpose, Mr. Charles Dickens has referred to the entry in his Diary, made at the close of that day.

He left his hotel for the Prison at twelve o'clock, being waited on, by appointment, by the gentlemen who showed it to him; and he returned between seven and eight at night; dining in the prison in the course of that time; which, according to his calculation, in despite of the Philadelphia Newspaper, rather exceeds two hours. He found the Prison admirably conducted, extremely clean, and the system administered in a most intelligent, kind, orderly, tender, and careful manner. He did not consider (nor should he, if he were to visit Pentonville to-morrow) that the book in which visitors were expected to record their observation of the place, was intended for the insertion of criticisms on the system, but for honest testimony to the manner of its administration; and to that he bore, as an impartial visitor, the highest testimony in his power. In returning thanks for his health being drunk, at the dinner within the walls, he said that what he had seen that day was running in his mind; that he could not help reflecting on it; and that it was an awful punishment. If the American officer who rode back with him afterwards should ever see these words, he will perhaps recall his conversation with Mr. Dickens on the road, as to Mr. Dickens having said so, very plainly and strongly. In reference to the ridiculous assertion that Mr. Dickens in his book termed a woman "quite beautiful" who was a Negress, he positively believes that he was shown no Negress in the Prison, but one who was nursing a woman much diseased, and to whom no reference whatever is made in his published account. In describing three young women, "all convicted at the same time of a conspiracy," he may, *possibly*, among many cases, have substituted in his memory for one of them whom he did not see, some other prisoner, confined for some other crime, whom he did see; but he has not the least doubt of having been guilty of the (American) enormity of detecting beauty in a pensive quadroon or mulatto girl, or of having seen exactly what he describes; and he remembers the girl more particularly described in this connexion, perfectly. Can Mr. Field really suppose that Mr. Dickens had any interest or purpose in misrepresenting the system, or that if he could be guilty of such unworthy conduct, or desire to do it anything but justice, he would have volunteered the narrative of a man's having, of his own choice, undergone it for two years?

We will not notice the objection of Mr. Field (who strengthens the truth of Burns to nature, by the testimony of Mr. Pitt!) to the discussion of such a topic as the present in a work of "mere amusement;" though we had thought we remembered in that book a word or two about slavery, which, although a very amusing, can scarcely be considered an unmitigatedly comic theme. We are quite content to believe, without seeking to make a convert of the Reverend Mr. Field, that no work need be one of "mere amusement;" and that some works to which he would apply that designation have done a little good in advancing principles to which, we hope, and will believe, for the credit of his Christian office, he is not indifferent.

cut off. I have seen my folly, and I hope they may see their folly; but I shouldn't if I had not been in trouble. It is good for me that I have been in trouble. Go to church, my sister, every Sunday, and don't give your mind to going to playhouses and theatres, for that is no good to you. There are a great many temptations."

Observe! John Styles, who has committed the felony, has been "living quite a careless life." That is his worst opinion of it, whereas his companions who did not commit the felony are "wretched companions." John saw *his* "folly," and sees *their* "wicked course." It is playhouses and theatres which many unfelonious people go to, that prey upon John's mind—not felony. John is shut up in that pulpit to lecture his companions and his sister, about the wickedness of the unfelonious world. Always supposing him to be sincere, is there no exaggeration of himself in this? Go to church where I can go, and don't go to theatres where I can't! Is there any tinge of the fox and the grapes in it? Is this the kind of penitence that will wear outside? Put the case that he had written, of his own mind, "My dear sister, I feel that I have disgraced you and all who should be dear to me, and if it please God that I live to be free, I will try hard to repair that, and to be a credit to you. My dear sister, when I committed this felony, I stole something—and these pining five months have not put it back—and I will work my fingers to the bone to make restitution, and oh! my dear sister, seek out my late companions, and tell Tom Jones, that poor boy, who was younger and littler than me, that I am grieved I ever led him so wrong, and I am suffering for it now!" Would that be better? Would it be more like solid truth?

But no. This is not the pattern penitence. There would seem to be a pattern penitence, of a particular form, shape, limits, and dimensions, like the cells. While Mr. Field is correcting his proof-sheets for the press, another letter is brought to him, and in that letter too, that man, also a felon, speaks of his "past folly," and lectures his mother about labouring under "strong delusions of the devil." Does this overweening readiness to lecture other people, suggest the suspicion of any parrot-like imitation of Mr. Field, who lectures him, and any presumptuous confounding of their relative positions?

(To be concluded)

POETICAL TRIBUTES TO CHARLES DICKENS

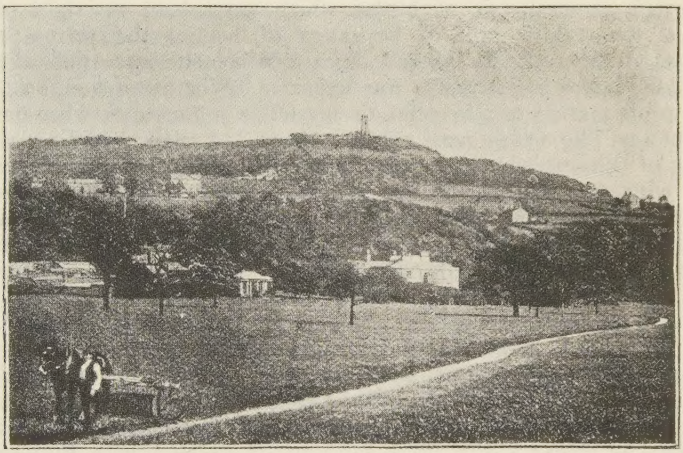
XXVII

IMMORTAL soul;
Creator of those characters that live with us, though thou art dead.
Creatures of the imagination that pass before us as we read.
A mighty family, born in thy brain to charm us to the end.
We bow before thy genius, and the knee we bend
In homage to thy memory.
Immortal soul;
Teacher of those lessons we all do well to learn.
It does not matter what we read, or where we turn;
We find them in thy every work, look where we will:
Love of humanity, charity, and pity, is thy motto still.
Great is thy memory. GWYNNE THOMAS.

THE CHEERYBLE BROTHERS*

THIS is a book which should have a very wide appeal indeed. Its Dickensian interest is obvious from its title, but it is more than a mere item of Dickensiana. If the record of long lives nobly lived in the service of others is ever worth reading and studying, then this *Story of the "Cheeryble" Grants* should have well-nigh universal interest. Mr. Elliot has obtained much invaluable information about the Grant family, and especially about the brothers William and Daniel.

It cannot be said that he has marshalled his facts as well as might be wished, thus not giving quite so connected a narrative as we think might have been evolved from the material, but that does not matter



NUTTALL HALL AND GRANT'S TOWER

very much. Suffice it to say that the 235 pages of this book tell a story which for deep human interest would be difficult to surpass. The last chapter contains the actual Dickensian interest. It is entitled "The Cheerybles—Ideal and Real," and shows in the most interesting way how accurately Dickens has portrayed the characteristics of the two brothers in *Nicholas Nickleby*. In his preface Mr. Elliot quotes from a correspondence which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* some months ago, showing beyond much doubt that Dickens did meet the brothers during his visits to that city with Ainsworth between 1838 and 1840, but a comparison between the ideal and the real would seem to leave no room for doubt at all; every physical characteristic and every little turn of speech of the brothers being reproduced in the novel with absolute accuracy, as Mr. Elliot shows convincingly in his last chapter. One can only marvel, as we all have marvelled often, at the accuracy of the novelist's observation in the smallest details. The book is dedicated to the Dickens Fellowship.

* *The Story of the "Cheeryble" Grants.* From the Spey to the Irwell. By the Rev. W. Hume Elliot, author of *The Country and Church of the Cheeryble Brothers.* Manchester and London: Sherratt and Hughes.

SHAKESPEARE AND DICKENS AS MEN OF AFFAIRS

By the Rev. W. A. C. CHEVALIER
AUTHOR OF "DICKENS AND CHRISTIANITY"

II

MANY instances illustrate the practical turn of Dickens's kindness and humanity, notably in the incident of the little child alleged to have been murdered by its mother; of which the result was that by his persevering exertion, seconded by the humane help of the coroner, the verdict of himself and his fellow-jurymen charged her only with concealment of birth; which proved to be right. He caused some extra care to be taken of her in the prison, and counsel to be retained for her defence when she was tried at the Old Bailey, and her sentence was lenient. "Whether it was the poor baby or its mother or the coffin, or my fellow-jurymen, or what not, I cannot say," he writes next morning, "but last night I had a violent attack of sickness, which not only prevented me from sleeping, but even from lying down." As a public benefactor in the exposure of abuses Dickens was eminently practical. He protested against the sentiment that a little learning is a "dangerous thing," and declared his preference for the very least of the little over none at all. He referred his audience at Manchester once to the "thousands of immortal creatures condemned without alternative or choice to tread, not what our great poet calls 'the primrose path of dalliance,' but one of jagged flints and stones laid down by brutal ignorance"; and he contrasted this with the unspeakable consolation and blessing that a little light had shed on men of the lowest estate and most hopeless means, "watching the stars with Ferguson, walking the streets with Crabbe, following the plough with Burns and Bloomfield, whispering courage in the ears of many other workers I could name."

In his advocacy of the Ragged Schools he wrote to Miss Burdett Coutts in the same spirit what he called a sledge-hammer account of them, taking pains to show her that religious mysteries and creeds would not be enough for such pupils, and telling her too that it was of immense importance that they should be washed. The humanity of Dickens was always practical, and found expression not only in words, but in good deeds; witness for example his exertions on behalf of the unfortunate and unsuccessful not only in his own art, but also in others. When Elton, the actor, lost his life at sea it was mainly by Dickens's unremitting exertions, warmly taken up by Mr. Elton's own profession (the most generous in the world), that ample provision was made for the many children left unprovided for.

It was the same in the case of Douglas Jerrold, who died leaving his unmarried daughter unprovided for. Dickens at once organized a series of theatrical performances and other entertainments (including a day and a night reading by himself), with a vigour and promptitude that resulted in such success that two thousand pounds was invested for his friend's daughter. As it regarded himself, however, we find that he would not allow the mercantile or business element to outweigh his

sense of honour or independence. And on one occasion he consults his friend Forster about returning a bank order for twenty pounds which the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, at the meeting of which he had presided, sent him in payment of his expenses. Forster's opinion coincided with his own for sending the money back, and it was done.

But in nothing did the "practicality" or business capacity of Dickens show itself more strongly than in stage management, in which he was an expert. And in this also Dickens was the parallel of Shakespeare. The very term of reproach applied to our great poet by his contemporary Greene, "Johannes Factotum," is a tribute to Shakespeare's industry and practical ability. From the beginning of his career he must have been in the widest and best sense a utility man, ready to do any work connected with the theatre and stage, and eminently successful in anything he undertook.

Speaking of a certain performance of *Every Man in his Humour*, in which Dickens played the principal part, Forster says: "But greatly as his acting contributed to the success of the night, this was nothing to the service he rendered as manager. He was the life and soul of the entire affair. I never seemed till then to have known his business capabilities. He took everything on himself, and did the whole of it without an effort. He was stage-director, very often stage-carpenter, scene-arranger, property-man, prompter, and bandmaster. Without offending any one, he kept every one in order. For all he had useful suggestions, and the dullest of clays under his potter's hand were transformed into little bits of porcelain. He adjusted scenes, assisted carpenters, invented costumes, devised playbills, wrote out calls, and enforced as well as exhibited in his proper person everything of which he urged the necessity on others."

Dickens never thought lightly of his work, whatever it might be, and that which occupied him was at the time paramount with him. It was his sense of the importance of what he had to do, and of the degree to which it concerned others that it should be done successfully, the high value which in general he set upon what he was striving to accomplish, that helped him to effect so much. It was no self-assertion, as it might have seemed to those who knew him not, but an earnestness of purpose and thoroughness of practice, without which he could not have mastered one-half of what he designed.

Dickens was both a pioneer, and a prince that is *princeps* in sanitary reform. He boldly declared his belief that neither education nor religion could do anything really useful in social improvement until the way had been paved for their ministrations by cleanliness and decency. He put the case of a miserable child drawn into one of those Ragged Schools out of the noisome places in which his life was passed, and he asked what a few hours' teaching could effect against the ever-renewed lesson of a whole existence. "But give him and his a glimpse of heaven through a little of its light and air; give them water, help them to be clean; lighten the heavy atmosphere in which their spirits flag, and which makes them the callous things they are; take the body of the dead relative from the room where the living live with it, and where such loathsome familiarity deprives death itself of awe; and then and not before will they be brought willingly to hear of Him Whose thoughts

were so much with the wretched, and Who had compassion for all human sorrow." There is practical wisdom in all this, and that great reforms in all these particulars have since taken place is mainly due to Dickens. It was in like manner that he approached the temperance question—no man advocated temperance with greater earnestness—but he made important reservations. Not believing drunkenness to be a vice inborn, or peculiar to the poor man more than to others, he would not agree that the existence of the gin shop was the beginning and end of it. He believed that many operative causes had to do with making it so, and his objection to the temperance agitation was that these were left out of account altogether. He thought the gin shop not fairly to be rendered the exclusive object of attack, until the temptations that led the classes that made it their resort to it should have been dealt with. Among these he counted the foul smells, disgusting surroundings, bad workshops, scarcity of light, air, and water; in short, the absence of all easy means of health and decency, which produced the mental weariness and languor that craved for relief by stimulant. This was the philosophy of Dickens, and it was eminently practical, proving in this as in other things that although a literary man he was also a man of affairs.

The fact is, Dickens was not what is called "bookish." For so remarkable and successful a writer he carried, as Forster remarks, very little of authorship into his ordinary social intercourse. Powerful as was the sway of his writings over him, at all times, it expressed itself in other ways. His talk was unaffected and natural, and never bookish in any degree.

How the parallel with Shakespeare is established in this respect. To Shakespeare all aspects of life, even the humblest, had points of contact with his own. He could talk simply and naturally without a touch of patronage or condescension to a hodman on his ladder, a costermonger at his stall, the tailor on his board, the cobbler in his combe, the hen-wife in her poultry yard, the ploughman in his furrow, or the low-born mechanic at the wayside country inn. As in his dramatic world he embraces the widest variety of human experience, so in his personal character he may be said to have combined the widest range of qualities, including some apparently the most opposed. He was a vigilant and acute man of business, of great executive ability, with a power of looking into affairs which included a mastery of legal details. But with all his worldly prudence and foresight, he was at the same time the most generous and affectionate of men, honoured and beloved by all who knew him, with the irresistible charm that belongs to simplicity and directness of character, combined with thoughtful sympathy for others and real kindness of heart.

Let me conclude with John Forster's testimony to the personal character of Dickens, which seems exactly to coincide with the foregoing characteristics of Shakespeare. Speaking of the rare charm of his letters in which Dickens revealed so much of himself, Forster says: "Of the personal character at the same time self-pourtrayed, others whose emotions it less vividly awakens will judge more calmly and clearly than myself. Yet to myself only can it be known how small were the services of friendship that sufficed to rouse all the sensibilities

of this beautiful and noble nature. Throughout our lifelong intercourse it was the same. His keenness of discrimination failed him never excepting here, when it was lost in the limitless extent of his appreciation of all kindly things; and never did he receive what was meant for a benefit that he was not eager to return it a hundredfold. No man more truly generous ever lived."

KIT IS SEARCHED

A hitherto unpublished illustration to *The Old Curiosity Shop* by "Phiz," from the "National Edition" of Dickens's Works

I have been deeply interested myself in tracing these parallel lines in the lives and characters of our great poet and our great novelist. I hope I have made it clear that these parallels are striking and interesting, and that they show how nature as well as history repeats herself; how two great masters of thought and fancy separated by many generations of time have almost the same aptitude in business affairs, as well as the same noble nature and a kindred genius in their respective spheres of literary and artistic work.

(*The end*)

BOZ AND HIS PUBLISHERS

By PERCY FITZGERALD, M.A., F.S.A.

II

RICHARD BENTLEY AND HIS "MISCELLANY"

CHAPTER II

IN the March number, 1838, appeared a humorous proclamation, as from a royal personage, announcing the present appearance of *Nickleby*, to be published not by Bentley, but by Chapman & Hall, who had just issued the completed *Pickwick* in volume form. It was to appear on 30 March; so this wonderful young man must have had on his hands and in his brain at the same time all these works: conclusion of *Pickwick*, conclusion of *Oliver Twist*, *Grimaldi*, *Barnaby Rudge*, *Nickleby*, the revised *Sketches by Boz*, and the magazine editing, with occasional papers; all of which seemed to appeal to the public too much and too often. After finding him thus burdened and his future so heavily mortgaged, we are almost startled to find among the advertisements of the magazine an announcement of yet further work. We read as actually being "in the press": "New work by Boz in three volumes, post octavo: *A new work of fiction by Charles Dickens, Esq. (Boz)*, author of the *Pickwick Papers*, etc." Now not a line of this book could have been written, and yet it was announced as complete and as being printed. The truth was, Boz was so accustomed to the "part" system that he could not write off three volumes in bulk. In the second number, however, is the announcement: "*New work by Boz.* In three volumes post octavo, *a new work of fiction.*" And by this time *Oliver Twist* had commenced. But in the fourth number we reach a positive statement in this important notice: "*New work by Boz* in three volumes post octavo. *Barnaby Rudge*, A story of the riots of 1780, *by Charles Dickens, Esq., Boz.*"

Three stories going on together! And it is clear that he really intended completing this new venture off-hand. But it is equally clear that so shrewd a publisher as Bentley would not dream of having four works by Boz before the public at the same moment. As the sequel proved, this announcement was intended to secure the energetic author to himself beyond the possibility of retreat. It was also a "warning off" to other publishers, thus showing how deeply Boz was engaged to him. Could it be that Boz had already written a large portion of *Barnaby Rudge*, it being "in the press," feeling that he could easily complete it, and had laid it aside? I doubt if he would have consented to publishing such a fiction as that it *was* "in the press" when it was not. He was too honest for that. But there is another element which has not hitherto been noticed, and which further complicates the matter. About the time of the second number of *Pickwick* we find him writing to Macrone, on Monday, 8 May, 1836: "My dear Macrone, I shall have great pleasure in accepting from you the sum of £200 for the first edition of a work of fiction (in three volumes of the usual type) to be written by me, and to be entitled *Gabriel Varden, the Locksmith of London*, of which not more than 1,000 copies are to be printed. I shall agree to your printing an extra number of copies, if it should appear desirable, on condition

that the profits thereon, all expenses being divided between us. I also understand that the before mentioned £200 are to be paid by you on delivery of the entire manuscript on or before the 30th day of November next, or as soon after as I can possibly complete it—by your acceptances at such dates as may be agreeable to both of us. Very faithfully yours, Charles Dickens." And Macrone proceeded to advertise his *Dolly Varden* repeatedly, and this rather supports the theory that the book in part had been written, for the "locksmith" and "Dolly" are subsidiary characters, and figure at the opening. It is clear, however, that the omnivorous Bentley secured the tempting morsel for himself.

On 7 November, 1838, three months before its conclusion, *Oliver* was issued in three volumes, "neatly bound," with twenty-four illustrations by Cruikshank. To prevent disappointment, customers were advised to give their orders immediately. And so they did, for a second edition was called for in a couple of months. On its completion in the magazine, Bentley added, "Mr. Dickens will commence a new story to be entitled *Barnaby Rudge*, to be illustrated in a similar manner by the rare pencil of George Cruikshank."

In the "Answers to Correspondents" we find a gaiety of tone and a good nature that were characteristic of the young editor. "We should have been happy to have availed ourselves of Vaslyn's paper but for its most disagreeable conclusion." In a later number however, he accepts Vaslyn. One paper is "too slight," another is "founded on too old a story." He "begs to thank M.E.M.T. and to inform him that no portion of their magazine is devoted to criticism on books." To another he says, "We are sorry to say the bet is lost." "Aleqius was declined last month." "We cannot make ourselves a party to the unfair assumption of a popular author's name." "We cannot encourage trading on another author's idea."

"To our Clapham Common and City correspondent, *with the unintelligible signature*, we beg to say that it is *not* our present intention, as the arrangements we have already made do not admit of our doing so." "We have received a paper with no other signature than Thursday night, which we are wholly unable to understand. It lies at the publisher's." "We are compelled to reject many papers on account of their enormous length, as we cannot begin any fresh series of chapters just now. Will our correspondents take the hint and save themselves and us an infinity of trouble." "A letter was sent by post, directed as requested, which has never been returned to the office, and it is presumed must have been delivered. We shall be happy to repeat its contents, either personally or in writing."

In his next number he was a little facetious: "The person who addressed to the publisher a manuscript entitled 'The first night of a New Play,' with a request that it would receive a few touches from the inimitable Boz, is an impostor; 'Sir Thomas Softy,' in Foote's comedy of *The Patron* (with which he is very well acquainted), is nothing to him. We decline to return the paper, which we intend to preserve as a literary curiosity; and if we are troubled with any further correspondence or communication of any kind, from the person in question, or any one on his behalf, we shall at once publish his name and address with a few explanatory remarks which he had best avoid."

This is truly characteristic of this high-spirited and genial young editor. The boldness and even boisterousness of his declaration, with his firm attitude, shows that he meant not to be trifled with. He was determined, we can see, to frighten off the fellow and to expose him if there were need. One likes the reference to Foote's play, "with which he is very well acquainted." It was no common piece, and shows how well-read he was. It will be noted that here appears for the first time the title which he was later so fond of, burlesquely applying to himself, "the inimitable Boz." Thus his schoolmaster was anticipated.

"Jim Crow is a public nuisance, and we decline the honour of being his biographers." "Many other papers have been received. We beg to remind our more pressing correspondents that we have very many communications besides theirs, and that if we were to return their papers within the very short space of time some of them specify we should be under the necessity of returning them unread."

Here was a business-like young editor who knew his own mind, and said what he had to say in the shortest and simplest form. We can almost hear him speaking. He is almost verging, too, on something smart or lively, and can with difficulty restrain his lively humour. One contribution was an ode to Mrs. Samuel Weller, which was declined. But he accepted "one communication from our friend Snodgrass." "The gentleman who complains of his 'Jim Crow affair' having received no notice from the editor would have saved himself some trouble, and deprived us of an autograph, if he had consulted the notices to correspondents before he wrote."

There is a touch of irony in the following: "The correspondent who was so obliging as to forward a paper about Geese from a considerable distance in the country, without paying the postage, is informed that it has been referred to the Comptroller General of the Post Office."

The editor also evidently delighted in giving the names of certain grotesque contributions which he was compelled to decline—such as: "It was my lot to be hatched a Sparrow," "Toasted Cheese," "Rhymes to a Chimney." This refers to *Oliver Twist*: "We are utterly at a loss to understand on what ground of justice or common sense 'Constant Subscriber' prefers his complaint. He has the story in the same portions and at the same intervals, as he always has had it—and has it moreover down to the very last word. He is the most unreasonable subscriber we have ever had the honour to hear from." Yet his story certainly had been interrupted twice.

The drudgery of all this work must have been painful. Boz evidently went through all the contributions with unflagging industry. He wrote courteously to each writer, giving him a special answer. It was really astonishing. Thus: "We regret that we are unable to avail ourselves of the communication of 'The Dreamer'; neither can we spare room for the short poem kindly transmitted by A. E. Our engagements will not allow of our accepting W. G. M.'s offers. A friend of ours at some Priory addressed a letter to us some time ago which we have mislaid and should be happy to answer. Will he write again?" What courtesy and indulgence! It is clear that he distinguished in his rejections some papers that he appreciated but were not suited for his purpose; others not worth considering were "left at the publisher's"

without comment. He was constrained to reject "something about Napoleon, which passeth our feeble powers of comprehension." And this was encouraging and kindly: "Our friend who has so perseveringly and good-humouredly tried once more has not tried his hand at precisely the sort of thing we require. We beg him to try again by all means."

Boz's last edited part was February, 1839. It is curious that while he was thus editing his publisher issued a work by Sir N. Wraxall under the title of *Posthumous Memoirs of Sir N. W.*, an odd suggestion of the famous Pickwick Club Memoirs, which were also posthumous.

It must be said that, on the whole, this editing of Boz was a wonderful piece of work for so young and inexperienced a writer. He showed great tact and steered clear of all complications. The pages are, on the whole, bright and varied. They are, of course, lit up always by Cruikshank's showy plates, and his own buoyant work. At times, however, he admitted some rather ponderous disquisitions—probably under pressure from his chief. The correspondence, as I have shown, was most conscientiously and laboriously done, the drudgery enormous. But to give him the fullest credit we must repeat what other burdens were on his shoulders: 1. Last half of *Pickwick*, month by month. 2. *Oliver Twist*, month by month. 3. *Grimaldi*, the writing and editing. 4. Contributions, perhaps equal to a small volume. 5. Writing the first numbers of *Nickleby*. 6. Laying out *Barnaby Rudge*. 7. Various dramas. 8. *Young Couples*, etc. The brain reels as we think of all this.

The third article in this series will be devoted to Messrs. Chapman and Hall.

THE PROTOTYPE OF POLLY TOODLE

THE GOOD NURSE IN "DOMBEY AND SON"

By ARTHUR HUMPHREYS

THE portrait here given is that of the late Mrs. Hayes, of Manchester, who died in November, 1905, at the age of ninety years. Her maiden name was Littlefair. In her early days she entered the service of Mrs. Henry Burnett (Charles Dickens's sister Fanny), and took charge of little Harry Burnett, the original of "Paul Dombey." Mrs. Hayes, during her connexion with the Burnett family, frequently came under the notice of Charles Dickens, who took great interest in her, and frequently told her he had used her for a character in more than one of his books. He particularly impressed upon her the importance of taking especial care of his invalid nephew, and wrote several letters to her, which, unfortunately, she destroyed a few months before her death.

THE LATE MRS. HAYES
The original of Polly Toodle

THE NATIONAL DICKENS LIBRARY

By B. W. MATZ

THE scheme for establishing in London a library exclusively devoted to Dickens and the multifarious literature that has accumulated round his name and fame, and promoted some time since by the Dickens Fellowship, has now been publicly taken up by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in his well-known *Weekly*, with every prospect of its being immediately realized. The scheme has been outlined in our pages on more than one occasion, but for the benefit of those who are not well acquainted with its details I will briefly restate the facts.

It has long been a cherished idea of some ardent Dickensians that a library memorial to Dickens in London, on similar lines to that existing in Stratford-on-Avon to the memory of Shakespeare, would some day be brought about, and when it was known that the late Mr. F. G. Kitton's collection of Dickensiana would eventually find its way either to the auction rooms or to America, it occurred to the Council of the Fellowship that to secure it would be the first step towards this consummation. On appealing to Mrs. Kitton on the matter, she very willingly placed the disposal of the collection in the hands of the Council, who immediately appealed in these pages for subscriptions towards acquiring it. Before doing so, however, they set to work to find a suitable home for it, and were fortunate in obtaining permission of the authorities of the Guildhall Library to house it there. Subscriptions came in fairly well, but it soon became apparent that a wider field than that in which *The Dickensian* circulated was desirable, and in receiving the support and valuable help of *T. P.'s Weekly* the larger public desired is available.

The sum required is £300, with which amount the Kitton Collection will be bought, and will form the nucleus for the National Dickens Library. When this is duly established at the Guildhall, it will be the Council's work to make it worthy of the name it bears, and little doubt can be experienced that by legacies and presentations from publishers and collectors it will rapidly grow to what will be a fitting memorial to England's national novelist.

I appeal therefore to all lovers of Dickens to help to bring this about by forwarding subscriptions to any amount, however small. The Fellowship itself had over five thousand members last year, and one shilling from each of them alone would make the scheme an actuality. But there are thousands of admirers of the novelist besides, and with the aid of *T. P.'s Weekly* there should be no difficulty or obstacle in the path. The Fellowship, however, should contribute the largest proportion, and I trust this appeal for substantial assistance will not be made in vain.

I should say that the scheme has met with the general approval of the Press throughout the country as one of really national importance.

When established, the Library will be held in trust for the nation by the Council of the Dickens Fellowship.

The amount received to date is about £80, and all future sums will be acknowledged in our pages as well as in *T. P.'s Weekly*.

MR. JOHN HARE ON DICKENS

THE annual dinner of the Boz Club, which is composed of admirers of Dickens, in the range of art, literature, and science, took place on 10 February, at Princes', Piccadilly, Mr. John Hare in the chair. The company included nine relatives of Dickens, namely, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Dickens, Miss Mary Dickens, Mrs. Perugini, Miss Hogarth, Miss Olive Dickens, Miss Elaine Dickens, Mr. Edmund Dickens, and Mr. H. C. Dickens. There were also present Lord James of Hereford (President of the Club), Lord Hothfield, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Luke Fildes, R.A., Mrs. Hare, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Stone, R.A.

The Chairman, in asking the company to drink to the memory of Charles Dickens, said that Dickens if he had chosen to adopt the stage as his calling would probably have been the greatest actor of his time. None who had the good fortune to see the plays in which he acted could forget his power and mastery of stage technique. None who could remember his readings could forget his vivid and life-like characterization. Comedy and tragedy, humour and pathos, each came readily within his means. By his mastery of the actor's art, terror, tears, and laughter were compelled at his command. Who could forget his reading of *Oliver Twist?* Not until the advent of Irving had he (Mr. Hare) seen an audience so moved, so spellbound, so enthralled. As it was certain that the stage lost a great actor, it was almost equally certain that it had lost a great playwright, for the hand that penned *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Oliver Twist* could, had the mind that directed it so willed, have produced dramas of equal power and beauty. The toast having been silently honoured, Lord James of Hereford briefly spoke in appreciation of the work and character of Dickens. Mr. Francesco Berger gave reminiscences, and Mr. Henry F. Dickens proposed the toast of the Chairman.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM MILES, F.R.I.S.
See page 60

ASPIRE!*

By CHARLES DICKENS

ASPIRE! whatever fate befall,
Be it praise or blame—
Aspire! even when deprived of all—
It is thy nature's aim.
The seed beneath the frozen earth,
When winter checks the fresh green birth,
Still yearningly aspires,
With ripening desires,
And, in its season, it will shoot
Up into the perfect fruit;
But had it not lain low,
It ne'er had learn'd to grow.

Aspire! for in thyself alone
That power belongs of right;
Within thyself that seed is sown,
Which strives to reach the light:
All pride of rank, all pomp of place,
All pinnacles that point in space,
But show thee, to the spheres,
No greater than thy peers;
But if thy spirit doth aspire,
Thou risest ever higher—higher—
Towards that consummate end,
When Heavenward we tend.

GREAT GENIUS WITHOUT INTELLECT†

By JOHN DAVIDSON

THE human race tends more and more to become a net product, so that genius, which is the gross sum of the whole nature, not a net sum of intellectual powers only, becomes rarer and rarer in civilized nations. Intellect often goes along with genius; but sometimes genius has almost no intellect at all. The outstanding instance of great genius without intellect is Charles Dickens. Dickens had the greatest literary gift of any English writer. Although the rapid development of Keats's poetic genius was very remarkable, it was not comparable to the sheer gift of the boy who wrote the *Pickwick Papers*. But the mind of this prodigious genius never went deeper than the commonplaces of an after-dinner speech; and his amazing gift of expression found its truest form in the purely decorative work of his gargoyles and grotesques—Mrs. Gamp, Dick Swiveller, Micawber, and a score more, the whole list led off by his first great and unsurpassed creation, the elder Weller—not Sam, who is faked and artificial, but the elder Weller, Tony, as he signed himself, worthy to hob-nob upon a temporary footing with Falstaff himself. Genius is a thing *brute*, not a thing *net*. It is the same as instinct. Dickens wrote the *Pickwick Papers* precisely as the bee builds its hexagonal cells, as Titus Oates (genius as criminal) invented his Popish plot, and as Ludwig of Bavaria exhausted his country's funds to build his gorgeous palaces.

* Identified and reprinted from *Household Words*, 25 Jan., 1851, for the first time.
† From an article on "Urban Snow" in the *Glasgow Herald*, 5 January, 1907.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

THE ninety-fifth anniversary of Dickens's birthday was celebrated by the Dickens Fellowship in London at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Square, E.C., on 8 February. The hall was full of members and friends. The President, Mr. Henry F. Dickens, K.C., occupied the chair, and delivered his annual presidential address, in the course of which he traversed the good work the Fellowship and all its branches had done during the past year, and alluded to some of the schemes each and all had in view for the future. Notable among these were the establishment of the National Dickens Library at the Guildhall, which was so near realization, and the proposed Convalescent Home, which, he regretted, had proved too large a scheme for them. He announced that the Council had decided to abandon that scheme, and, if the subscribers approved, to place the £200 in hand towards a fund to establish a Dickens Fellowship cot in the Home for Crippled Children, for which the Lord Mayor of London was appealing for funds. Mr. Dickens appealed in the name of his father for the whole of the Fellowship's help in this matter, and expressed a personal hope that sufficient support would be forthcoming to make the scheme possible. Mr. Dickens alluded to the severance of the Portsmouth Branch from the Fellowship, and expressed great regret regarding it.

London.

During the evening Canon Benham, Mr. Snowden Ward, and the Hon. Secretary addressed the meeting, whilst some very notable recitals were given by Messrs. Ernest Wellbeloved, Albert Bangert, Walter F. James, Paul Mardol, and Miss Barbara Allison.

TICKETS for the "dance social," to be held at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., on 25 April, are now ready. Early application should be made for them at head-quarters. Members' tickets are 2s. each; non-members', 2s. 6d. The cost will include refreshments. Dancing will commence at 7.30. Evening dress optional.

Needlework and Charitable Guild.

A tea and entertainment for some of our poor folk at South Tottenham is in course of preparation. The date—as soon after Easter as possible—will be announced in our next issue. Miss Miniken will be glad to hear from those members—ladies or gentlemen—willing to assist in serving or entertaining the guests on this occasion.

THE old folks' dinner, annually provided by the Branch, took place on 8 February at the Shrubbery Road School, Lewisham. The organizers welcomed about 150 aged residents, who were liberally regaled with typical English fare, served hot. How much the aged guests appreciated the kindness of their hosts was evident from the outset until the conclusion of the entertainment. The visitors contributed a venerable little crowd. Many of them have attained a great age, but despite this they cheerfully left their humble homes and braved a cold north-easter, in order to participate in the good things provided. The committee, of which Mr. J. E. Palmer is the hon. secretary, were most solicitous for the comfort of all their aged guests.

Blackheath, Lee, and Lewisham.

At the January meeting Mr. J. W. T. Ley read a very interesting and thoughtful paper entitled "A Believer's Heresies," in which he dealt with those persons who were always anxious to find fault with, and disapproved of Dickens and his works from various standpoints for no real tangible reason. He himself was no blind idol worshipper, but he would give place to no one in his love for the novelist and his books. He did not, however, close his eyes to those characteristics in them which were far from perfect; and he proceeded to cite some of them. The secret of Dickens's success was that noble lesson nobly taught which every book of his contained, "Love thy

neighbour as thyself," and that was why his memory was blessed to-day. Mr. J. E. Palmer occupied the chair.

The attraction of the February meeting was a wonderfully lucid analytical study of *Edwin Drood* by Mr. Willoughby Matchett, who prefaced his paper with his views upon the conclusions arrived at recently by Messrs. Cuming Walters, Andrew Lang, and William Archer. He then presented a remarkably well written and reasoned theory showing that Dickens's object in writing the book was not so much to mystify his readers over a murder as to give a psychological study of a murderer. It need not be said that the lecturer had no doubt as to the death of Drood. Mr. Matchett suggested no probable solution to the mystery, but made out an excellent case for Bazzard as Datchery. He also dealt with the cover to the book from a symbolic point of view. Mr. B. W. Matz occupied the chair and spoke to the subject briefly.

Brighton.

AN enjoyable and successful function was the "birthday celebration" held by the Branch at Steine House. There was a large attendance of members and friends. An interesting programme, including recitations from *Barnaby Rudge* and a selection from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Miss Russell Davies; a reading from *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Mr. W. F. Fowler; a recitation of how Susan Nipper speaks her mind, from *Dombey and Son*, by Miss Alice Halsey; "The Cherub's reception after the Wedding," from *Our Mutual Friend*, recited by Miss Goring; "Kit's Outing," from *The Old Curiosity Shop*, by Miss Julia Smith; and a poem, "The Children," by Mr. Inker. Mr. Henry Bristow presided.

Brixton.

IN the lecture hall, Brixton Independent Church, on 28 January, the evening was devoted to a two hours' recital of *Dombey and Son*, given in two sections, by Mr. W. Miles, F.R.S.L. The recital comprised a general outline of this well-known book, introducing the principal characters and main incidents of the tale—humorous and pathetic. The stories of Little Paul and Florence and Walter Gay, the strained relations between Mr. Dombey and Edith, with incidental personations of Major Bagstock, Susan Nipper, Mrs. Pipchin, and Mr. Toots—these all were happily illustrated in dramatic and masterly style, and commanded the interested attention of a crowded and appreciative audience. The President, Mr. W. Davenport, was in the chair.

At usual place of meeting, on 11 February, a lecture, illustrated by lantern, was given by Mr. R. Allbut, on "Kentish Dickens-land." The several localities of Kent associated with the works and life of Dickens came under review, including the various interests—personal and imaginative, of fact and fiction—connected with the county in which the earlier and latest years of the great novelist were spent. Greenwich, Gravesend, Chalk, Cobham, Rochester, Gadshill, Cooling, Cob-tree, Chatham, Canterbury, and Dover afforded the lecturer ample material for an hour's chat thereto appertaining. The photographic illustrations, kindly lent by Mr. Walter Dexter, greatly enhanced the interest of the occasion. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Skeen and Marriott apropos to the subject of the evening.

Forest Gate.

A VERY successful "members' night" was held on Thursday, 14 February, a large number of members taking part in the proceedings, which included recitations, readings, and vocal and instrumental music. Among the items, which were too numerous to mention in detail, were a recital of "The Poor Schoolmaster" by Miss Niedermann; a paper on "Dickens's Schoolmistresses" by the Hon. Secretary; a reading from *The Old Curiosity Shop*, "The Visit to Astley's," by Niss Nellie Sayers; and songs, etc., were rendered by Miss Dickinson, Miss Fryett, Miss Cully, Madame Lena Michelbacher, Mr. Cohen, and Mr Graham. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Mason. During the evening the question of giving a poor children's outing was put forward, and will be decided at the March meeting.

THE meeting of the Branch held at the Queen's Hotel on 24 January was in aid of the Ore Penny Dinner Fund. Mr. Wilson Crewdson, J.P., presided.

Hastings and St. Leonards.

Mr. Clarke gave some inimitable sketches from Dickens, doing justice to the humour of Dick Swiveller and the Single Gentleman, Trotty Veck and Meg, Betsey Trotwood, Mr. Pickwick's mistake at Ipswich, Old Fezziwig's dance, Sam's valentine, and to the pathos of Caleb Plummer. Mr. W. Scotcher, jun., gave some clever impersonations, Grandfather Smallweed and Sydney Carton being the most striking. The rest of the programme comprised some excellent vocal and instrumental items by members. We understand that the Branch is looking forward to a visit from Mr. G. K. Chesterton in March.

AT their meeting on 11 January the members had a special treat. Those popular exponents of characters from the works of the great novelist,

Hull.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, snatched a few moments between their performances at the Hull Palace Theatre, and, at the request of the Fellowship, entertained the members with several scenes from Dickens's works. The Cobden Hall was, of course, packed, and Mr. Mortimer Petty had just time to wish the Fellowship a Happy New Year when Mr. and Mrs. Lucas arrived. Two scenes were given from *Martin Chuzzlewit* and one from *The Old Curiosity Shop*, the reciters making their characters live before the audience. They had been kind enough to bring their stage costumes, which enhanced the fidelity of the representations. Mr. Lucas and his wife were enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Lucas, in returning thanks for their reception, observed that he and his wife had recently returned from South Africa, where they had met with much appreciation, especially in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The paper for the evening was given by Mr. J. R. Boyle, who brought his wide literary knowledge to bear on the subject of Mr. G. K. Chesterton's *Dickens*. Mr. Boyle subjected the author to a scathing criticism, remarking that the title ought to have been "G. K. C. on Things in General." He read passages from the book for the purpose of criticism.

ON 10 January the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Frank Kidson, read a paper, "Boz the Inimitable." Mr. Kidson did not follow the usual line of praise, but

Leeds.

showed the extraordinary quality Dickens possessed over other authors in his method of writing, and emphasizing the points he wished to enforce. He defended the great author from the clap-trap cry "Dickens was a bad stylist." 24 January was a "miscellany night." On 7 February a grand birthday celebration was held at the Conservative Club. This took the form of a whist drive and dance, at which about ninety were present. The annual poor children's treat will be held some time in March.

AN enjoyable gathering was held in the Common Hall, Hackins Hey, on 23 January. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Marriott. This being a "members'

Liverpool.

night," all the programme was contributed by themselves. Mr. Weir had written an interesting and racy paper on "Was Charles Dickens uneducated?" deprecating, of course, any such idea, and this was read in its writer's absence through illness by Mr. J. R. Ramsden. After some discussion, in which the paper was highly commended, three debates were successfully conducted, viz. "Dickens as a character-painter or scene-painter, in which did he excel?" by Miss Ada Lloyd and Mr. J. Wallace, jun., the lady being an easy winner. "Could Dickens depict a gentleman?" Affirmative, Mr. H. Aüerbach; negative, Mr. J. H. Baylis, M.A. —the affirmative winning by a small majority. "Had Dickens a true sense of humour?" Affirmative, Mr. Macfarland; negative, Mr. Willett—the voting resulting in a triumphant victory for the affirmative. In addition to the leaders, the following members joined in the discussions: Mrs. Bell, and Messrs. Formby, Tessimond, Rowland, Beckett, and Ramsden.

On 24 January a whist drive and dance took place, and eight prizes

were presented to those most successful in the former. During the evening a presentation was made to Mrs. Bell, the energetic Treasurer of the Branch who has done so much towards making the Branch the success it is, in the shape of a dainty jewel box. Mr. Williams, the steward of these functions, was also the recipient of a suitable present.

Manchester.

THE Manchester Branch celebrated the ninety-fifth anniversary of Dickens's birth by a social gathering on 8 February. There was a very large attendance of members and friends. In the absence of Sir W. H. Bailey (President), the chair was occupied by Mr. Albert Nicholson. The Dickens recitations included "The Tetterby family," by Mrs. Laurence Clay, and "Wegg and Boffin," by Mr. J. W. Smith. Mr. H. P. Rusden gave some fine impersonations of Dickens characters, and the musical part of the programme was furnished by Mrs. Granville Humphreys, Mr. F. S. Berlyn, and Mr. Ben Tinker. Mr. J. Cuming Walters delivered the "birthday" address, his subject being "Dickens and John Bull." An interesting exhibition of Dickensiana was arranged by Messrs. Bagot, Collings, and Holden.

Melbourne.

AT the meeting on 7 January Mr. William Davis, from Bendigo, delivered a splendid lecture on "Dickens," interspersed with recitals from *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *Christmas Carol*, and "Pecksniff at Todgers'," "Death of the Chancery Prisoner," "Sydney Carton," "Mr. Winkle's Misadventures." Mr. Davis has for forty years been a student and lover of Dickens, whom he places first in the realm of fiction. Although his selections are so well known, Mr. Davis, by his masterly rendering, invested them with a new and living charm and power, and demonstrated the possession of marked elocutionary ability.

Philadelphia, U.S.A.

THE Philadelphia Branch of the Dickens Fellowship was permanently organized on the ninety-fifth anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. The meeting was held at the St. James' Hotel, a fine parlour having been placed at the disposal of the organization by Mr. E. G. Miller, the proprietor of the hotel. When the roll was called eighty-five enthusiasts signified their intention to become members. Dues have been fixed at $2 per year. The following were elected officers:—John C. Eckel, president; Dr. Henry Leffmann, first vice-president; John Thomson, second vice-president; Henry L. Childs, third vice-president; Dr. B. F. Baer, jun., corresponding secretary; W. I. Rutter, jun., treasurer. Executive committee: W. H. Hart, Miss Curtis Wager-Smith, Charles Sessler, Mrs. S. C. Barnes, and Felix N. Gerson.

Mrs. M. B. Coombs read "Mrs. Hunter's Breakfast" from *Pickwick Papers*.

At the preliminary meeting of Wednesday, 23 January, there were about fifty present. John C. Eckel explained the purposes of the Fellowship, and Miss M. C. O'Neill, secretary of the Chester (Pa.) Branch, made an address which was warmly received. A committee on permanent organization was named, which consisted of the following: W. H. Hart, Dr. B. F. Baer, jun., Charles Sessler, Louis Jackson, W. I. Rutter, jun., and John C. Eckel.

Mr. Frank Speaight will undoubtedly give a reading to the Fellowship about the second Wednesday in April.

Sheffield.

ON 24 January, at the Cutlers' Hall, Mr. G. W. Parker read a paper dealing with the recent discussion on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Mr. J. W. Lee contributed a most interesting and instructive address on "Charles Dickens, his life and work." Mrs. Wingfield recited "Hiawatha's Childhood"; and Miss Roberts, "Cremona," by Sir Conan Doyle. Mr. Archer Waite treated the audience to a bit of broad Yorkshire dialect in a humorous recital entitled "Noah."

On 4 February the Branch gave a tea to five hundred poor children of the town, who made skilful havoc of the pork pies, buns, bread and butter, cakes, jam tarts, and other good things provided for them. After tea a magic-lantern entertainment was given by Mr. Hill, of the Church

Army. All arrangements were in the hands of Miss Rhodes, the Treasurer, and reflected great credit upon her and those members who rendered her assistance.

The birthday celebration took place on 7 February. The Branch was founded in 1904, and has made very rapid strides, having become one of the most successful and popular literary societies in the town. This is largely attributed by members to the careful management and excellent organization of Mr. T. W. Padmore, the Secretary. His services were recognized by a presentation to him at this meeting. The evening's proceedings took the form of a concert, held at the Cutlers' Hall. Mr. R. W. Dodsworth, President, occupied the chair, and there was a crowded attendance. The presentation consisted of a handsome gold watch, which bore a suitable inscription.

In making the presentation, the President alluded to the hard work that Mr. Padmore had done and the great services that he had rendered to the Society by the capable manner in which he carried out his numerous duties. Mention of the rapid growth of the Society under Mr. Padmore's secretaryship was made by Mr. G. W. Parker. There were now about eight hundred members in Sheffield.

Mr. Padmore, who had a very cordial reception, thanked the members for so magnificent a gift. For the rest of his life the watch would be his constant companion. He had spent a great deal of time on the business of the Society, but it had been a pleasure to him to do so.

An excellent programme was contributed to by Miss Smart, Mrs. W. Oxley, Master Moresby, Messrs. W. Latham, W. Oxley, Hewlett, Archie Waite, and Bert Sharp. Mr. W. Latham was the accompanist.

Southampton.

THE birthday celebration (unavoidably postponed till 14 February) took the form of a special social evening, the President, Mr. J. R. Smith, J.P., giving an eloquent opening address, followed by an excellent recitation by Mr. J. W. Harman, "The Bloomsbury Christening." Two sketches, "Mr. Jingle's Proposal" and "Sam Weller's Supper Party," were admirably portrayed by the Misses E. Tracy, D. Young, Messrs. C. Tracy, T. Cregan, and T. O'Callagan. Songs by the Misses Tracy and Campbell, and a violin solo by Mr. E. Mouncher, contributed greatly to the pleasure of the evening.

West London.

THE meeting of the Branch was held on 31 January, in the Public Lecture Hall, Ealing, and was quite what the President called it, a red-letter day in its annals. Mr. Langton Johnson entertained a large and appreciative audience with character sketches from the novels of Dickens, including impersonations of Uriah Heep, Barnaby Rudge, Dick Swiveller, and the Marchioness (in which he had the co-operation of Miss Vera Ivanoff), Rogue Riderhood, Old Peggotty, and Mrs. Gamp. Mrs. Gamp got her usual meed of laughter; her get-up was very effective. After a short interval Mr. Johnson appeared in quick succession as Sydney Carton, Mr. Micawber, the Old Grandfather, and in a scene taken from *Oliver Twist* comprising Nancy (Miss Ivanhoff), Fagin, and Bill Sikes. Mr. Johnson showed great ability as a quick-change artist in taking the dual characters. In all his impersonations Mr. Johnson showed he had caught the spirit of Dickens. Through the long and arduous programme he held the audience from beginning to end. Miss Kerr officiated ably in the intervals on the piano. Mr. Chevob presided.

York.

THE anniversary of Dickens's birthday was celebrated by the members, who held a social evening in the Peckitt Street Lecture Room. Mr. G. W. Dodds occupied the chair in the regrettable absence of the President, Dr. J. P. Wightman. A pleasant time was spent in social intercourse, a capital programme of vocal and instrumental music and recitations having also been arranged and contributed by Miss E. Skinner, Mr. J. Walker, Mr. F. Billen, Mr. W. Bell, and Mr. Victor J. Bourne.

MR F. T. HARRY'S DICKENSIAN RECITAL

AT the Cripplegate Institute, on 22 January, Mr. F. T. Harry gave a Dickensian "Recital," which comprised *The Hypocrite*, dramatized from *Martin Chuzzlewit*, preceded by *Mr. Bumble Proposes*, from *Oliver Twist*, both adapted by Mr. Harry.

The first piece was the famous tea-party at Mrs. Corney's, at which, after having examined and tested her household goods, and more especially her silver ware—during her absence at the deathbed of the "wicious pauper" Sally—Mr. Bumble puts the question and is accepted. Mr. Harry as Bumble and Miss Vera Grenville as Mrs. Corney were both good, but the effect seemed to be slightly spoiled by Bumble's face being made up too extravagantly. *The Hypocrite* was divided into three acts and four scenes, each of which was crowded with important events, as was only to be expected, when we realize how full *Martin Chuzzlewit* is of dramatic possibilities. The hugeness of the task becomes apparent when it is known that Mrs. Gamp, Mark Tapley, Mr. Bailey, Poll Sweedlepipe, Mrs. Todgers, John Westlock, and Ruth Pinch, besides a host of others, do not figure in the play at all. Mr. F. T. Harry acted the three parts of Mr. Pecksniff, Montague Tigg, and Old Chuffey very well, but he was more successful as the chairman of "The Anglo-Bengalee." Mr. A. W. Browne, Mr. R. M. Morley, and Mr. R. Chudleigh were excellent as Jonas, Old Martin, and Nadgett respectively. Young Martin and Anthony Chuzzlewit were played by Mr. F. Ward and Tom Pinch by Mr. H. V. Hodgson with some success. Miss Grenville was a disappointment as Mary Graham, but the sisters Mercy and Charity were played with great gusto by Miss F. Wiggins and Miss E. Maynard. Mention must be made of the excellent portrait of Mr. Pecksniff presented by Mr. F. T. Harry, and of the music played by "The Brunswick Orchestra."

"PIP."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"I didn't know, and now I do know, and that shows the advantage of asking, don't it?"—ROSA DARTLE.

QUESTIONS

DICKENS COMPENDIUM.—Can any reader tell me the name of the publisher of "Index to the works of Charles Dickens: being a concise yet full compendium of all the principal characters found in the books of this great author. Compiled by Wm. Cahoon, jr., and Algernon Granville"? The volume was evidently issued in paper wrappers in America at 10 cents. On the top of the cover are the words, "Souvenir to 'Authors' Carnival.'"

OLIVER.

DICKENS AND THE APOCRYPHA.—A reference to Judith in chapter XXI of *Little Dorrit* suggests that Dickens was not unacquainted with the Apocrypha. Can any reader tell me of any other allusions in his writings to Judith? or of any references to the two books of Esdras, Tobit, Baruch, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, the Song of the Three Children, the Prayer of Manasses, the Esther additions, the two books of Wisdom, and the Maccabees?

HERBERT PENTIN.

TIGERS IN AFRICA.—In one of the works of Dickens the author suggests the presence of tigers in Africa. Can any reader give the reference?

CALEB.

REFERENCE WANTED.—Where in Dickens is to be found the expression "Don't forget to butter your bread on both sides"?

J. G. GOWING, D.D.

EDWIN DROOD.—The author of the article on Edwin Drood in *Cornhill*, March, 1884, refers in a footnote to an article by Mr. Luke Fildes on the same subject. In what magazine did this article by Sir Luke Fildes appear, and under what date? SAPSEA.

ANSWERS

EDWIN DROOD.—I might reveal the identity of "Gillan Vase" but for the fact that, to the best of my belief, the lady herself has not chosen to do so on her own account. "Gillan Vase" is not a well-known authoress in disguise, but has published several works of fiction under her pseudonym, such as *Under the Linden*, and *Through Love to Life*. I believe her repute is chiefly local, both in regard to her own literary powers and to her distinction as the wife of a highly gifted and respected member of the Manchester Literary Club.

On the subject of Mr. Sapsea's first query, I regret that I cannot tell him the author of the unsigned *Cornhill* article.

GEORGE F. GADD.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

"Dickens and Christmas." By Robert H. Sherard. *Tasmanian Mail*, 22 December, 1906.

"In the Footsteps of Dickens and Scott." *Yorkshire Herald*, 16 January. Letter, *ibid.*, 21 January.

"Three Elephants and Three Morals." By Claudius Cleor. *British Weekly*, 24 January.

"One of Dickens's Favourite Haunts" (illustrated). *Weekly Budget*, 24 January.

"Dickens Characters in London." *Daily Graphic*, 2 February.

"Is Sudbury 'Eatanswill'?" *Suffolk and Essex Press*, 6 February; and *Essex County Standard*, 9 February.

"Dickens Library" (illustrated). *Daily News*, 7 February.

"Dickens" (Leader). *Manchester Courier*, 7 February.

"Dickensia." *Liverpool Courier*, 7 February.

"A National Dickens Library." *T. P.'s Weekly*, 8 February.

"Glasgow Dickens Society" (Verbatim Report). *Glasgow Herald*, 8 February.

"The Triumph of Dickens." By W. L. Courtney. *Daily Telegraph*, 9 February.

"Dickens Celebrations" (and Leader). *The Tribune*, 9 February.

"Charles Dickens" (Poem of twenty-one verses). *Plymouth Western Weekly Mercury*, 9 February.

"Dickens Anniversary." By J. E. W. *Manchester City News*, 9 February.

"Dickens Anniversary" (Speech by John Hare). *Daily Telegraph*, 11 February.

"Books and Writers." By J. Cuming Walters (Dickens Anniversary). *Western Mercury*, 9 February.

"Dickens Day: Plea for a Wider Celebration." *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 7 February.

"An Old Phonographer's Recollections" (My first public dinner, Boz and Sam Slick in the chair). *Pitman's Journal*, 16 February.

"Celebrating Dickens's Birthday." *T. P.'s Weekly*, 15 February.

"The National Dickens." *Daily Graphic*, 15 February.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS

MARCH

1. Manchester Branch: Short Papers and Readings by Members, at Portico Library.
   Shrewsbury Branch: Meeting, at Alkmund's Rooms, at 8.
   Birmingham Branch: *Our Mutual Friend*, by Mr. W. Farrow, at Great Western Hotel, at 8.
2. Liverpool Branch: Whist Drive.
6. Powerstock Branch: Social and Concert.
7. Edinburgh Branch: Readings, by Mr. W. Storrie Beveridge, at 5 St. Andrew's Square, at 8.
   Leeds Branch: "Below Stairs: Dickens and Servants," by Miss Edith Kidson, at Church Institute, at 8.
8. Hull Branch: "Dickens's Schoolmasters," by Mr. H. B. Browne, M.A., at Albion Rooms, Percy Street, at 8.
11. Brixton Branch: Meeting, at Independent Church, at 8.
12. Maitland Park: Dickens Recital, by Mr. Percy Merriman, at Haverstock Sunday School, at 8.
13. Liverpool Branch: "Fairy Stories from Various Lands," by Mr. John Lee, at Commin Hall, Hackins Hey, at 8.
    Bristol and Clifton Dickens Society: Discussion, "Social Influence of Dickens," introduced by Mr. C. Andrews, at 20 Berkeley Square, at 8.
    York Branch: "Dickens and the Legal Profession," by Mr. G. B. Inglis, at Peckitt Street Lecture Room, at 8.
14. Forest Gate Branch: "Some Minor Characters of Dickens," by Mr. C. G. Edson, at Earlham Hall, at 8.
15. Winnipeg Branch: Discussion on *David Copperfield*.
    Shrewsbury Branch: Meeting, at Alkmund's Rooms, at 8.
18. Southampton Branch: Readings, by Mrs. Seaward and Rev. W. S. Martin and others, at Kell Memorial Hall, at 8.
    Blackheath Branch: "Dickens's Domestics," by Miss Edith Sayers, at Avenue House, Avenue Road, Lewisham, at 8.
19. Brighton Branch: Joint Meeting with Clifton Road Literary Society.
21. Edinburgh Branch: Papers by Mr. William Wyper and others, at 5 St. Andrew's Square, at 8.
    Leeds Branch: Fortnightly Meeting, at Church Institute, at 8.
22. Sheffield Branch: Social Meeting, at Cutlers' Hall, at 8.
    Hull Branch: *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Mr. T. H. Ledbair, at Albion Rooms, at 8.
    Birmingham Branch: Whist Drive, at Great Western Hotel, at 8.
23. Brighton Branch: *Bleak House*, by Mr. W. Adams, at Steine House, at 8.
25. Brixton Branch: Readings, by Rev. A. Thurston Pain, at Brixton Independent Church, at 8.
27. Liverpool Branch: "Dickens Interviews," by Mrs. MacCunn, at Commin Hall, Hackins Hey, at 8.
    York Branch: Social Evening, at Peckitt Street Lecture Room, at 8.
28. West London Branch: Meeting, at Municipal Buildings, Ealing, at 8.
    Chesterfield Branch: Readings from *Martin Chuzzlewit*, at Trinity Institute, at 8.
29. Stockport Branch: "Dickens and Music," by Miss L. Downs, at Sunday School, at 8.
    Shrewsbury Branch: Meeting, at Alkmund's Rooms, at 8.

BARDELL *v.* PICKWICK

Facsimile of the first drawing executed by "Phiz," which was not used. The original of the second drawing, which was engraved for the book, was recently sold at auction. See p. 88.